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SPECIAL FEATURE
RUSSELL SPLANE

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THE U.S. MAYOR -- 1978
(VOICED VERSION IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DO YOU STILL CLING TO THE STEREOTYPE OF A TYPICAL U.S. CITY MAYOR AS A FAT, CIGAR-SMOKING OLD LINE POLITICIAN? WELL, YOU CAN CONJURE UP A NEW IMAGE AS WE HEAR IN THIS REPORT FROM VOA CORRESPONDENT RUSSELL SPLANE.

VOICE: THERE ARE STILL SOME OF THE OLD TYPE LIKE THE LATE MAYOR RICHARD DALEY OF CHICAGO. BUT THEY NO LONGER DOMINATE THE SCENE AT THE NATION'S CITY HALLS. THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS -- WHICH RECENTLY CONCLUDED ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN ATLANTA -- HAS COME UP WITH AN INTERESTING PROFILE OF TODAY'S CITY EXECUTIVE. THE STUDY SHOWS THAT THE MAYORS IN MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE SIX HUNDRED U.S. COMMUNITIES LARGE ENOUGH TO BE CALLED CITIES DON'T FIT THE STEREO-TYPE AT ALL. MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED ARE WOMEN. NEARLY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ARE YOUNG AND MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ARE BLACK.

THE STUDY SHOWS A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED FOURTEEN WOMEN OCCUPYING THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AT CITY HALL. THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS THE GREATESTNUMBER OF WOMEN MAYORS WITH TWENTY-ONE. ILLINOIS AND OHIO ARE NEXT WITH EIGHT EACH. AND IT ISN'T JUST SMALL CITIES THAT CHOOSE WOMEN MAYORS. INCLUDED ON THE LIST ARE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS--POPULATION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND. LILA COCKRELL IS THE MAYOR. THEN THERE'S PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- POPULATION 664-THOUSAND -- MARGARET HANCE, MAYOR. AND SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN A HALF MILLION HAS JANET GRAY HAYES IN CITY HALL.

VOICE: (CONT) IN ITS STUDY THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS FOUND ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE CITIES IN THE U.S. WITH MAYORS WHOSE AGE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR DID NOT EXCEED FORTY-TWO. CALIFORNIA AGAIN LED THE LIST WITH EIGHTEEN MAYORS IN THE FORTY-TWO OR UNDER CATEGORY. THE MID-WESTERN STATE OF ILLINOIS WAS NEXT WITH FOURTEEN YOUTHFUL MAYORS AND TEXAS WAS THIRD WITH TEN. THREE MAYORS -- ALL JUST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD-TIED FOR HONORS AS THE NATION'S YOUNGEST. THEY'RE THE MAYORS OF SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA, BELLE GLADES, FLORIDA, AND EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

NO FEWER THAN ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE U.S. CITIES NOW HAVE BLACK MAYORS, A SINGULAR TRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. IT'S ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT SOUTHERN STATES LEAD THE LIST OF STATES WITH BLACK-LED CITY GOVERNMENT. MISSISSIPPI HAS SIXTEEN CITIES WITH BLACK MAYORS, NORTH CAROLINA HAS FOURTEEN AND ALABAMA TWELVE. THREE OTHER STATES -- ARKANSAS, MISSOURI AND MICHIGAN -- ARE TIED WITH TEN EACH. WHILE MANY OF THESE BLACK-LED COMMUNITIES -- PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHERN STATES -- ARE SMALL, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MAJOR CITIES WITH BLACKS AT THE HELM. THE LIST INCLUDES LOS ANGELES -- POPULATION TWO POINT EIGHT MILLION -- WHERE THOMAS BRADLEY HEADS THE CITY GOVERNMENT. COLEMAN YOUNG IS THE MAYOR OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, WITH A POPULATION OF A MILLION AND A HALF. WALTER WASHINGTON IS AT THE HELM IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL CITY -- WASHINGTON,

VOICE: (CONT) D.C. -- AND KENNETH GIBSON IS THE MAYOR OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY WITH A POPULATION OF THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND.

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